

The Baptist Record

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Baptists take high profile in Russia's millennium

KIEV (BP) — The Baptist story began less than 125 years ago in Russia, but the All-Union Council of Evangelical Baptists Christians in the Soviet Union took a high profile in the recent millennium of Christian celebrations. Its congregations held special services, seminars and events to mark the event nationwide.

The 71 churches in the Kiev district organized the first-ever youth conference June 18-19. It drew more than 1,000 delegates and 1,500 more guests, including youth choirs and orchestras.

The Kiev district is one of 25 — each with its own superintendent — for Evangelical Baptists in the Ukraine. The district superintendent, Vladimir Y. Kunetz, also is pastor of Darnitsa Baptist Church, which hosted the youth gathering. Participants were lodged in homes of members of the several Baptist churches in Kiev. Baptists hope such conferences may now be held four times each year, Kunetz said.

U.S. Baptist evangelist Billy Graham, who spoke several times at Russian Orthodox Church functions in Moscow, Zagorsk and Kiev during the official program, preached at Yamskaya Baptist Church of Kiev in a special meeting June 15. European Baptist Federation General Secretary Knud Wumpelmann also preached.

Because of the anticipated crowds, entrance to the building and grounds was by invitation. However, loudspeakers carried the music of a 70-voice youth choir and the preachers' messages to adjacent streets, where thousands more stood listening. Baptist leaders said 3,000 to 4,000 people came. Because members gave their invitations away to friends,

at least one-third of the people present were non-believers.

Elsewhere, three congregations at Briansk, an industrial city of 500,000 people, held a joint open-air service Sunday, June 12.

They chose the grounds of a former monastery near where the city's celebration of its own 1,000-year

history took place in 1985. Not incidentally, the location at a river's edge permitted the three pastors to baptize 63 new Christian converts — 15 of whom were teenagers.

The congregation advertised the service not only by word-of-mouth but by putting up posters at markets, bus stops and other points throughout the city. Although the combined membership of the three congregations totals no more than 1,000, about 4,000 persons attended the five-hour service.

Local government representatives attended, a number of print journalists covered the event and Briansk television originated broadcasting from the site. When an invitation to profess faith in Jesus Christ was given, some 50 people responded. The occasion included the marriage of a young couple from one of the congregations.

Even churches not affiliated with the All-Union Council observed the event. In Riga, Latvia, a Russian-language Baptist church whose pastor is Josef D. Bondarenko, a leader in one of the independent groups dating to an earlier split in council ranks, held day-long millennium services June 19.

As an example of the growing cooperation among Baptists in the Soviet Union, however, the regular weekday service in Kiev's Yamskaya Church the evening after Graham spoke included sermons by church assistant pastor; Bondarenko; Gerhard Hamm, originally from the U.S.S.R. but who now works among Soviet emigrants in the Federal Republic of Germany; and a representative from the Baptist World Alliance office in Washington.

Pastor Vladimir Vanchihin studies a message in his apartment home in the major Soviet city of Pskov. Vanchihin has three children, Maria, 7, Yelena, 5, and Dmitri, 3. He is pastor of Pskov Baptist Church. Pskov, an important railroad junction in the far western part of the country, is one of the Soviet Union's most historically important cities. (FMB) PHOTO By Don Rutledge



Moscow Baptist Church in the Soviet Union was the place for Christian fellowship one Saturday afternoon recently. A certain quality of brightness was evident in the faces of Soviet Baptists like this woman and child, who attended the church to be led by youth in a special program celebrating their faith. Young people participated in singing, quoting poems, dialogue and other ways. Baptists throughout the Soviet Union have celebrated the 1,000th anniversary year for Christianity there. (FMB) PHOTO By Don Rutledge

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SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES
Historical Photographs, 1840-1900
Nashville, Tennessee

Prayers from all over culminate in wedding

By Mary Ella Gibson

SINGAPORE — The work and prayer of Baptist believers on three continents culminated in a wedding of a Singaporean woman who served a shortened prison sentence for drug trafficking in Europe.

The bride, Nancy Koh, recently graduated from Baptist Theological Seminary in Singapore. The groom, Sandro Ng, is a Baptist from Hong Kong who works with a Chinese church in

Rome.

But Nancy's life might have taken a much different track without the influence of Southern Baptists.

Several years ago, while studying fashion design in London, Nancy enjoyed traveling throughout Europe with a Singaporean boyfriend. Then one day she discovered he was involved in drug trafficking.

Soon she was part of a heroin distribution network in Europe.

For many months she lived a frantic and affluent lifestyle. Inside, she questioned it.

Then she was arrested and sentenced to 20 years of prison in Rome. Though her time was shortened to 10 years, the months in prison became depressing and full of despair for her. But one day Southern Baptist missionary Amelio Giannetta, a naturalized U.S. citizen from Arizona, visited her in prison.

Members of Giannetta's church

in Rome, plus her friends in the United States, began to pray for Nancy. Finally Giannetta was able to lead Nancy to a new life in Jesus Christ. Within months she received a conditional release from prison. An Italian family offered her a home, and she was baptized at the Evangelical Baptist Church of Trastevere, where Sandro worked.

She stayed in Rome until her sentence was completed; then she returned to Singapore, where she

joined International Baptist Church. While she was a student at the seminary her commitment led her into effective field work in many areas — including a Baptist fellowship with ex-prisoners.

Nancy and Sandro wrote each other regularly. A visit to Rome brought an official engagement, and wedding plans were soon underway.

Mary Ella Gibson is a Southern Baptist missionary press representative in Singapore.

Editorials . . . by Don McGregor

Decision on Clarke College

Mississippi Baptists soon will be called on to make a determination regarding the future of Clarke College. Mississippi College, which now controls Clarke, has announced to the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board that without an additional \$145,000 to be allocated to Mississippi College in 1989 to be used for the administration of Clarke, it will pass the school back to the convention.

Lewis Nobles, president of Mississippi College, asked the Convention Board to amend its budget proposal to the convention; but the board declined. Thus the decision will be left to the convention, where it would have rested finally anyway.

The decision to close a college is not an easy one; and this decision, whatever it is to be, will be no different. It was in an attempt to save Clarke that Mississippi College was asked to assume control of the junior college in 1980.

Actually it was a merger of the two schools, but Mississippi College has continued to operate Clarke as a separate entity. Thus it knows that Clarke is operating in the red, as it has for 18 years.

It was very possible, according to Clarke trustees in 1980, that the

Mississippi College effort gave Clarke an eight-year lease on life.

But now it seems that the time for a decision is upon us. There have been several options used to extend the life of Clarke, but the money for continuation seems to be questionable.

And it must be remembered that the Mississippi Baptist Convention passes 37.5 percent of its income on to Southern Baptist Convention causes. There is a \$55,000 item in the budget for Clarke, but Mississippi College says that it needs \$200,000. That means an additional \$145,000; and to that figure must be added 37.5 percent or an additional \$54,375. Thus it would take an additional income of almost \$200,000 to supply Mississippi College with the additional funds.

Two choices are possible. One would be to take the \$145,000 from other aspects of the budget, thus creating no additional need for funds. This, however, would seem to be a forlorn hope. It is said to be a "bare bones" budget already. The other would be to add the \$200,000 to the existing budget figure, but this also would seem to be beyond hope. The total of \$19,871,693 is felt to be about as far as the budget could be expected to go.

In reality, budgets are only guesses.

What matters is the income. And, if Clarke is saved, there must be some additional income from some source. It wouldn't seem feasible to take \$145,000 from other areas of work when it already has been determined that they have submitted minimum budgets. To expect that the 1989 income would go \$200,000 above the total budget figure already determined is speculative. At the end of August the budget income for 1988 was \$98,917 below a pro rata budget amount based on an annual figure of \$18.9 million.

So the logical source of additional income would be from tuition paid by students. But there is where the rub has been all along. There have not been enough students. It was felt that the student population could be increased when Clarke went under the Mississippi College wing, but it didn't happen.

There is no question but that Clarke College has served well. There is no question but that the college would continue to serve well if it could be assured of the source of support that it needs if it is to continue. There is no question but that Clarke College is serving a vital need in the educational careers of the students who are enrolled there at the present. There is no



question but that a quality junior college would be a valuable asset in the Baptist system of higher education in Mississippi if it could be properly financed.

At this point Mississippi College says that the financing is \$145,000 per year short, assuming the \$55,000 item would continue in years to come, and

that it cannot continue to operate the junior college on that basis. Mississippi College has announced that it will come before Mississippi Baptists at their annual convention in November for a decision on the future of Clarke College.

The decision could well be an agonizing one.

Guest opinion . . .

The temptation of Christ vs. the reality of Christ

By Billie Buckley

Everywhere I look I'm reminded of the fact. Mothers are rejoicing over it, children are moaning because of it, and teachers can't believe it could possibly be true.

It must be. Newspapers announce it, ads scream its reality, and magazines are filled with it.

Just what is it? What is this inevitable fact that has just dawned upon me?

It only takes three words to tell you — BACK TO SCHOOL!

A future sixth grader hurried up to me in the grocery store recently and asked, "Mrs. Buckley, I'm getting my school supplies. Should I buy pens to write with in your class?"

I didn't even have to think about that one, "No, not for me, honey. Just buy old fashioned pencils." I don't know why anybody would want to write with a pen? When you mess up, you can't erase that pen as easily as you can a trusty, old, stub-nosed pencil.

One of the skills kids have to master (Oh, teachers, does that not make your skin crawl?) is to tell the difference between facts and opinions. It

sounds easy, but try this one:

Chocolate ice cream is good. Now if you said "opinion," you get to move to the head of the class. But for all of you who said "fact," I have to reteach and retest you again. You see, that was just your opinion because I hate chocolate ice cream.

There are other statements that you can bet your life on as being a fact.

It's hot in the summertime in Mississippi. Now that's a fact!

Everybody is older today than yesterday. Some of us just have more yesterdays than others.

Babies cry, children wiggle, young people aggravate, and grown ups worry. Amen?

These few facts do not change no matter what I believe.

There is one other reality I would suggest to you. It is simply stated, "Jesus Christ is a powerful fact in our world today."

Much has been written recently about the controversial movie entitled "The Last Temptation of Christ." There have been honest opinions on both sides. I would like for you to think

with me not about the temptations of Christ in the Bible but the reality of Christ in my life.

His reality leads me to God.

His reality leads me to myself.

His reality leads me to you.

How does his reality lead me to God? The path is simple and straight. If I am to establish a relationship with God, I must go through his Son. His death, in my place, upon the cross was his payment for the penalty of all my sins. Our world speaks lightly of sin. Yet, God takes it seriously. Why? Because it separates me from him. Now this relationship is not based on God being my best friend or my buddy. That would reduce God to my human size, and he would cease to be my God.

There is a direct quote from the Bible that assures me of a permanent relationship with God. It states this fact, "If any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous." Let me repeat, "His reality leads me to God."

The reality of Jesus Christ also leads me to myself. This is not an ar-

Baptist beliefs . . .

The baptism of Jesus

By Herschel H. Hobbs

"And Jesus, when he was baptized . . ." — Matthew 3:16

The triune God was present at Jesus' baptism: Father (voice, v. 17); Son (Jesus); Holy Spirit (dove, Luke 3:22). Why was Jesus baptized? It was not to denote his repentance, for he

was not a displaced self but the self God intended me to be. Some Christians are constantly downgrading themselves and calling it humility. True humility is fed by an awareness of our dependence upon God.

One way I make contact with God is through praise. This praise is simply bragging on God for who he is and for what he has done. He made us in his own image, and when we upgrade ourselves we upgrade God. When we downgrade ourselves by the way we live and speak we downgrade God.

The Bible puts it this way, "Love thy neighbor as thyself."

Finally, the reality of Jesus Christ leads me to you. We do need God, but we need each other too. We need to hear each other say, "Come on, don't be afraid. I'll go with you. I won't preach to you or judge you. I'll just walk with you. We will work this out,"

(Continued on page 11)

had no sin of which to repent. Several things may be noted in his baptism:

(1) Jesus authenticated the ministry of John the Baptist. (2) He identified with those whose baptism symbolized their repentance. (3) He was anointed by the Spirit as the Messiah. (4) He inaugurated his ministry.

Furthermore, in Jesus' baptism there is a prophetic note. The New Testament makes a distinction between "John's baptism" and Christian baptism (Acts 19:1-3). John's baptism was one of repentance, indicating a willingness to be a part of God's kingdom when it came. Christian baptism symbolizes what Jesus did for our salvation (death, burial, resurrection) and what he does in us when we receive him as Savior (death to the old life of sin, its burial, and rising to a new life in Christ). So in his baptism we may see the prophecy of his saving work for and in us.

It is no wonder that at Jesus' baptism the Father said, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased" (Matt. 3:17).

Herschel H. Hobbs is pastor emeritus of First Church, Oklahoma City.

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Mississippi — horizon of opportunity

By Earl Kelly

Mississippi is an horizon of opportunity for Baptists who are interested in committing themselves and their resources to sacred challenges.

On the horizon of some Mississippi communities where no steeple now stands, a church steeple will appear almost over night. The Margaret Lackey Offering placed four such steeples on horizons in 1987. More new church starts will be financed by the State Mission Offering in 1988.

Capable leadership for the years beyond the horizon are now in the process of being trained through the use of funds made available by the Margaret Lackey Offering. Training is a year by year process and never ends until one has reached maturity. All the training programs being provided for our boys and girls at Central Hills Baptist Retreat and Camp Garaywa are totally financed by funds received from the Margaret Lackey Offering. The visible results of this

past summer's activities are astounding: 466 professions of faith; 1,408 total decisions.

Somewhere over the horizon, there will be another disaster. We are stockpiling supplies to get ready for it through the State Mission Offering.

If one looks hard at the horizon shortly before the setting of the sun, he can see young ethnic groups who are in our midst standing with outstretched hands. The hands seem to say, "Help us." If we Baptists don't

give them the training for future leadership among their own people, who will? Some of the State Mission Offering will be used for that purpose.

Perhaps we cannot always help all the hurt the crime and our criminal justice system reveals, but we can do something. We can fulfill the ministry of Matthew 25:36 by increasing our gifts to the State Mission Offering.

More than 1,300 years before Christ was born someone wrote a "Hymn to the Sun" which says,

Bright is the earth when thy risest
in the horizon;
When thou shinest as Aton by day
Thou drivest away the darkness . . .
Men waken and stand upon their
feet
When thou has raised them up . . .
Then in all the world they do their
work.

Earl Kelly is executive director-treasurer, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

U.S. Justice sues Virginia camp

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — A Christian conference center operated by a group of Southern Baptists in Virginia is in violation of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the U.S. Justice Department has charged.

But Larry Ferguson, president and director of The Masters Inn in Altavista, Va., says the government is trying to violate the center's constitutionally protected religious freedom.

Ferguson, a member of Hyland Heights Baptist Church in Lynchburg, Va., said The Masters Inn holds spiritual retreats for Christian groups which anyone may attend. While most of the retreats are sponsored by Southern Baptists, members of Lutheran and Presbyterian churches have also used the center, said Ferguson.

However, last year the center refused a request by a group of Mormons to use its facilities.

"To open our doors to cults would mean that we'd have to propagate beliefs that are against our gospel," Ferguson said. "Their (the Mormons') beliefs are anti-Christ. If we were forced to open our doors to the Mormons, we'd have to open them to the Church of Satan."

"They can come into the programs we conduct. Anyone can. We do not allow groups that are the antithesis of Christ to come in here and teach anti-Christ doctrines."

According to the Justice Department suit filed Aug. 3 in U.S. District Court in Lynchburg, The Masters Inn is a public accommodation and must abide by the 1964 Civil Rights Act,

which forbids discrimination in accepting lodgers on the basis of religion.

"The defendant follows a pattern and practice of denying to persons on the basis of their religion, including persons who are members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, the use and enjoyment of the facilities and services of The Masters Inn on the same basis as such facilities are provided to other members of the general public," the suit says.

But Ferguson denied The Masters Inn is a public accommodation. "We are a Christian conference center," he said.

Advertising is done only in fliers distributed to Southern Baptist churches, he said, adding a person could not simply stop at the inn and ask for lodging or a meal for the night. Only Christian retreat groups are accommodated.

The government is seeking a court order prohibiting what it calls further discrimination. If an order is issued and The Masters Inn refuses to comply, it could be found in contempt and fined.

A spokesperson at the District Court in Lynchburg said the conference center must respond to the complaint by Aug. 29. No action has been taken on the case yet, she said.

He said the board has asked the Rutherford Institute, a private organization in Manassas, Va., which closely watches church-state issues, to take charge of the case.

The Second Front Page

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Student convention set for First, Starkville

The 1988 Mississippi Baptist Student Union Convention will take place Sept. 23-25 at First Church, Starkville, with the theme "My Faith in Action."



Thurman

This, the 64th business meeting for Baptist college students, will begin at 7 p.m. on Friday, and conclude at 10:15 Sunday morning.

Featured speakers include Calvin Miller, Jim Futral, Ronnie Prevost, and Tom Thurman. Miller is an author and pastor of Westside Church, Omaha, Neb. Futral is president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention and pastor of Broadmoor Church, Jackson. Prevost is associate professor of Christian education at

Southern Seminary. Thurman is a Mississippian who serves as a missionary in Gopalganj, Bangladesh.

Roy Cotton, associate director of the division of campus ministry for Virginia Baptists, will lead in special music and give a concert. Other music will be from Andrea Hemphill of MSU, Blake Scafield of Co-Lin, and Jeff Barkley of Northeast.

Missy Hester of MSU will give a testimony concerning her summer as a student missionary.

In business, the students will determine a missions budget for the next year.

Special interest conferences to be offered include "Developing a Simplified Lifestyle," "Steps in Choosing a Career," and "Peer Counseling."

The convention is sponsored by the Department of Student Work, MBCB.



Miller



Futral



Prevost



Cotton

Gulfshore similar to Virginia camp

Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, owned and operated by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, has policies similar to those of the Masters Inn.

Frank Simmons, Gulfshore manager, cited the objectives of Gulfshore. They are: 1 — to lead persons to a personal confrontation with and commitment to Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord; 2 — To offer inspiration, information, instruction, and encouragement to Christian living; and 3 — To provide a retreat setting in which prayer and Bible study may become intensely personal, meaningful, and helpful in Christian renewal and revival.

Simmons noted the policy states that groups other than those identified with the Mississippi Baptist Convention must have ideals and purposes that relate to the three Gulfshore objectives. He said when a group not known to Gulfshore staffers asks for use of the facilities in the off season, "we usually ask in a nice way what they believe or what their practices are and if they have a written statement of faith."

Indonesia grants missionary visas

By Marty Croll

JAKARTA, Indonesia (BP) — Indonesia has granted long-awaited visas for five newly assigned Southern Baptist missionary couples.

Three of the missionaries are assigned as church starters and two as theological educators. In addition, four veteran missionaries involved in developing churches have been granted one-year renewable extensions. They are Tom and Hazel Barron, of Richton, Miss., and Fred and Linda Beck, of Galveston, Texas.

Missionaries in Indonesia have been plagued for years by rumors they would be forced to leave the south Asian country of 175 million people. But last year the rumors became

reality as the government notified many of the missionaries they would not be able to renew their visas.

Left unchanged, the policy could eliminate up to nearly two-thirds of Southern Baptists' missionary force in Indonesia. There may be some exceptions, but apparently only medical missionaries and others who have been working in the country less than 10 years will be allowed to stay.

One missionary, Clarence Griffin, is seeking Indonesian citizenship in an effort to continue his work in the country.

But those who expect to leave say they are not only struggling with the personal loss they feel, but also with

the question of whether the work they have begun will continue. Those who expect to stay are questioning how one-third of the force will carry the whole load.

News of the newly granted visas have boosted morale among missionaries. Jim Bethea, of Memphis, Tenn., and his wife, Stephanie, of Waverly, Pa., received their visas only days ago and already are at work in the country.

Others appointed are expected to arrive shortly, including Kevin and Susan Randolph, of Colorado Springs, Colo., and Gulfport, Miss., who plan to start and develop churches.

Marty Croll writes for the FMB.

BSSB adjusts budget; BTN revenues lag

By Jim Lowry

NASHVILLE (BP) — Financial reports and budget adjustments facing the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board occupied a major portion of time for trustees attending the Aug. 15-17 semi-annual meeting in Nashville.

One adjustment recommended by the administration but to which trustees demurred was to discontinue BTN coverage of the Southern Baptist Convention. Trustees directed the board to allocate the \$30,000 for the service to churches.

E.V. King, vice president for finance, told trustees revenues for the first nine months of the current fiscal year were \$3 million below budget but almost \$6 million above last year. Some bright spots point to improved revenues in the upcoming year, he added.

He listed several causes for the \$3 million lag in revenues, which included church literature sales 2.2 percent below budget, Convention Press sales 5.9 percent below projections and Baptist Telecommunication Network revenues 15.5 percent below budget.

The Holman division was cited by King as one area of increased sales for the first nine months of this fiscal year, with sales of more than \$6 million, 23 percent above budget, and \$2.02 million, or 49.8 percent above last year.

Other components listed by King as experiencing growth over the past year were Baptist Book Stores, Broadman Press, and Genevox, the music-publishing component.

The 1988-89 budget approved by trustees is \$176.65 million, a 5.6 percent increase over the present budget, and 7.4 percent, or more than \$12 million, over 1987-88 projected revenue.

Included in the budget was a reduc-

tion of \$494,160 for Baptist Telecommunication Network, which includes the elimination of five employee positions in the telecommunications department. This follows a budget reduction last year of \$400,000, which also included five jobs cut in that department.

The business and finance committee reviewed the continuing investment losses by the board in BTN, which are more than \$11 million since 1981. It issued a letter of support for the training network, recommending three growth expectations for the 1988-89 year.

The changes reported by the administration to trustees to strengthen the financial contribution of BTN include a goal of increasing the number of subscribing churches to about 4,000 from the current 1,381 to reach a financial break-even point for the network.

Trustees were told BTN messages now are available on a videotape service to allow churches the choice of how to receive the training materials. Due to technical difficulties, the BTN satellite signal is no longer scrambled.

Trustees also approved a revision of the schedule for construction of an office tower on top of the board's Operations Building. The six-month delay in the beginning of construction will allow the board to seek more favorable bids for the work.

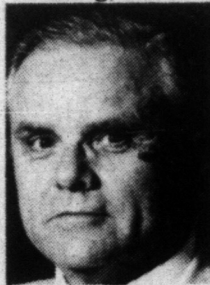
The preliminary design, approved by trustees in February 1988, provides for the construction of a nine-story office/conference tower, to be purchased with \$14 million from the fixed asset reserve fund.

Completion of the building now is expected in the summer of 1990.

Jim Lowry writes for the BSSB.

Brooks Wester dies at age 71

Brooks H. Wester, who retired in 1982 as pastor of First Church, Hattiesburg, died Aug. 30 in Houston, Texas at age 71. He was a former president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.



Wester

former pastor.

Wester, born in Elgin, Texas, Jan. 27, 1917 was graduated from Baylor University and Southwestern Seminary. Baylor awarded him a doctor of divinity degree. During World War II he was a chaplain in the U.S. Air Force.

His pastorates included Rankin Church, Ennis, Texas; First Church, Brunswick, Ga.; First Church, Brookhaven, Miss.; Park Place, Houston; and First, Hattiesburg.

He had served as a member of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and as a member of the convention's Education Commission; trustee of Baylor University; chairman of the Radio and Television Commission, SBC; member of the Executive Committee, SBC; vice-president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas; trustee, Mississippi Baptist Foundation.

He wrote a manual for chaplains of the United States Air Force, and he had written lessons for adult Sunday School quarterlies published by the Baptist Sunday School Board.

Survivors include his wife, Margaret; two sons, Brooks Jr. and Wallace Lee; grandchildren.

I don't waste time worrying about what I don't have. I just try to do the best I can with what I do have. — Harry S. Truman

Bay Springs resolution objects to disputed movie

Bay Springs Church, Clyde Little, pastor, adopted a resolution Aug. 22, opposing the movie, "The Last Temptation of Christ," and objecting to its exhibition to the public.

In part, the resolution states that "the below signed members believe that the motion picture titled 'The Last Temptation of Christ'... does distort, pervert and defile the true life and spirit of Jesus Christ, depicting our Savior as a worldly man, subject to sins, temptation, lust, and vices not to be attributed to our Savior" and that they "recognize that this distortion and perversion will be detrimental to any and all persons who view same, and would be especially harmful to those who do not know Jesus Christ as their Savior, and to the youth of our land, as same will present a wrong and inaccurate portrait of the true, holy, and perfect Jesus Christ."

Consequently, they refute the

claims that this is "responsible" and "acceptable" entertainment. They acknowledge the fact that the film is "a direct assault on biblical Christology, the doctrine of Christ, and is blasphemous in that it rejects the unique God-man relationship, denies the sinlessness of Christ, and depicts the life of Christ as recorded in scripture as false."

In the resolution, the church members say they will commit the matter to prayer, and pledge themselves "to work with other Christian groups in a unified effort to discourage attending the film" and assert "that local movie-houses and theatres should refrain from showing same."

HMB will give gospels of John at movie

ATLANTA (BP) — In an effort to encourage a positive witness to people who attend the controversial movie "The Last Temptation of Christ," the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board is making available free copies of the Gospel of John.

The Scripture portions will be available through the Baptist associations in the cities where the movie is being shown.

In addition to the gospels, the Home Mission Board is making available to the associations a specially-printed cover overleaf to be attached to each Scripture portion that says: "Be Your Own Critic! You've seen the movie. Now read the Book."

Larry Lewis, HMB president said that Christians need to be at the exits of every theater to ask people who see the movie what they thought about it and to engage them in serious conversations about the questions the movie raises. In seeking to answer those questions, Christians will have an opportunity for "personal soul winning," he said.

"We need to strike while the iron is hot, and while people are searching for the answer — Jesus Christ, the Son of God," Lewis said.

In addition to the Gospels of John and the "Be Your Own Critic" cover, the Home Mission Board is providing to the associations a list of practical suggestions on how to distribute the gospels. The Christian Life Commission is providing the associations with a one-page list of suggestions on how to protest effectively against Universal Studios and the local theaters.

Baptists minister after air disaster

KAISERSLAUTERN, West Germany (BP) — Numerous members of Faith Baptist Church in Kaiserslautern, West Germany, were on duty or among the spectators when three Italian jets collided Aug. 28 during an air show at nearby Ramstein Air Force Base.

"It's a miracle that one of us wasn't hit" by debris from the wreckage, said the church's pastor, Jim Tomberlin. A day after the tragedy, he said he had gotten no reports of injured church members.

Tomberlin, his wife and three

children were about 100 yards from where one of the planes crashed into the crowd. He, like many other spectators, was videotaping the show.

For several hours after the disaster, Tomberlin did volunteer chaplaincy work in the air base's theater, where people separated from family members were instructed to wait.

The immediate past chairman of the church's deacons, Bob Heriford, did volunteer paramedic work at the air base's hospital. Heriford is an Air Force sergeant from Colorado.

"There was a lot of that kind of

thing — people really responded and jumped in (to help) where they could," Tomberlin said.

Faith Baptist would plan its next service "to deal with this tragedy in the community. We anticipate a lot of people in the church knowing people who were affected by it," Tomberlin said.

The church is the largest member of the English-language European Baptist Convention. Most of its members come from Ramstein and 10 other military bases in the Kaiserslautern area.

Honduras Baptist church feeds landslide victims

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (BP) — A tropical depression that caused heavy rainfall and widespread flooding throughout Central America has been blamed for more than 40 deaths and has left hundreds of people homeless.

In Comayagua, Honduras, just outside the capital of Tegucigalpa, Central Baptist Church began housing and feeding 170 refugees Aug. 19. The refugees lost their homes in massive landslides in the hilly area.

Southern Baptist missionary Joyce

Harms, reached by phone Aug. 23, said rain had continued through the night and church members were expecting more homeless people to arrive at the church that day, reported Mississippian Stanley Stamps, Southern Baptist missionary press

representative in Honduras.

Harms' husband, David, who is pastor of Central Church, is working with the national relief organization to help meet the needs of the flood and landslide victims.

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Accreditation team calls SEBTS "a very troubled institution"

By R.G. Puckett

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP) — Southeastern Seminary, is "a very troubled campus and divided institution," according to a report filed with the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada.

The report says trustees of the 38-year-old school here apparently are "clearer about their role as agents of the Southern Baptist Convention than about their full fiduciary role as trustees."

It details events at the seminary during the past year, including measures taken by trustees to more closely control faculty selection, the resignations of the school's president and top administrators and campus

concern over those events.

A three-member committee visited the seminary on behalf of the association in mid-March and interviewed representatives of administration, trustees, faculty and students. Its report was presented to the association's executive committee in mid-June and released to faculty and trustees in early August.

Visiting committee members were Jim L. Waits, vice president of the Candler School of Theology, chairman; Jack L. Stotts, president of Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary; and Leon Pacalla, the association's executive director.

The committee conducted the site

visitation to gather information that would "enable the (association's) executive committee to determine what implications, if any, the events at the seminary may have regarding the proper recognition and adherence to the principles of academic freedom and institutional integrity."

The association's conclusions eventually will determine whether Southeastern will continue to be accredited by the organization. The seminary currently is accredited by the association and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, which is scheduled to make an on-site accreditation visit Sept. 14-16.

Trustees' actions last fall — which ensured that only biblical inerrantists will be added to the faculty and which gave trustees and the president, not the faculty, primary responsibility for selecting faculty members — prompted the resignations of President W. Randall Lolley, Dean Morris Ashcraft and six other administrators.

The association's visitation committee concluded the resignations of the president and the dean were directly related to actions of the board which, the administrators felt, "so altered their offices and jurisdictions as to make it impossible for them to carry on the responsibilities of their administrative roles with integrity."

One of the major issues in the dispute is the manner in which faculty members are recruited and elected. The report notes: "In October 1987, the board, without prior knowledge of the president altered substantially the procedures for all faculty appointments...."

"First, the changes represented a unilateral action by the board without participation by either administration or faculty and altered if not violated the school's traditions and practices of deliberation and consultation with peer faculty of the seminary regarding matters of faculty appointments...."

"Second, the changes altered substantially the role of the faculty in the appointment process.... This change is perceived as inserting the trustees in the faculty appointment process at a point that has been traditionally the prerogative of faculty and academic officers."

The visitation committee also focused attention on the fact that the Articles of Faith, the official document of the seminary for doctrinal guidelines for the faculty since the school's inception in 1950, was not the sole criterion used by the trustee committee on instruction in interviews with candidates for faculty appointment. Such non-seminary documents as the Chicago Statement on Inerrancy also were used which, according to the report, "caused considerable concern throughout the seminary and resulted in confusion regarding the status and authority of the Articles of Faith and other official documents of the school."

R.G. Puckett edits the North Carolina Biblical Recorder. Also contributing to this story was Marv Knox of the Baptist Press central office.

Mississippians give August high

Mississippi Baptists gave their largest gifts ever in an August through the Cooperative Program, according to an announcement by Earl Kelly, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Total August giving for Southern Baptists' unified budget plan was \$1,759,496. The previous August high was \$1,482,208 in 1984.

Total giving for 1988 is \$12,511,083, which is \$533,007 more than that given through August in 1987.

Pro rata giving for the 1988 Cooperative Program budget would be \$12,610,000. This means that if giving were done in 12 equal amounts, the total thus far would be \$98,917 behind that pro rata amount.

The 1988 budget is \$18,915,000.

Sunday School sets Whistlestops

Mississippi Baptist Sunday School leaders can travel to any of four Mississippi cities in October for training in eight areas of Sunday School work.

These "Growth Whistlestops" will take place Oct. 10 at First Church, McComb, 7-9:30 p.m.; Oct. 11 at First Church, Hattiesburg, 7-9:30 p.m.; Oct. 12 at Bel Aire Church, Gulfport, 9:30 a.m. to noon; and Oct. 13 at Calvary Church, Pascagoula, 7-9:30 p.m.

Topics of study and leaders include work with Homebound, led by Bill Gambrell, of First Church, Jackson, and Randy Riley of First Church, Gulfport; Outreach Bible Study, led by Susan Kinton of First Church, Carthage.

Using BTN topic of three meets

Utilizing BTN — the Sunday School Board's television training network — will be the focus of a conference which



Lewis

will take place in three locations in the middle of this month. The network, to which churches and associations subscribe, offers training in virtually every area of church life.

Title of the conferences is "How to Use and Administer BTN in Your Church and Association." They will be on Sept. 19 at Calvary Church, West Point; Sept. 20 at First Church, Brandon; and Sept. 22 at First Church, Picayune. Each will be from 7-9 p.m.

Conference leader at each will be Jack Lewis, consultant in the church media library department of the Sunday School Board. He is a graduate of William Carey College and New Orleans Seminary.

Topics at the conferences include "Promoting BTN in the Church," "How Do I Get BTN Organized?" and "How Can a BTN Coordinator Help You?"

The conference is aimed at all church staff and key leaders in church program organizations. Farrell Blankenship, BTN resource person for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, will coordinate the meetings.

SEBTS chair taking report report "very, very seriously"

By Marv Knox

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP) — A cautionary report from a major accrediting agency has produced concern among Southeastern Seminary officials.

Trustee Chairman Robert D. Crowley told Baptist Press: "I'm taking it (the committee's 18-page report) very, very seriously. I wrote an 11-page letter in reply to ATS, but I don't feel at liberty to comment (on the specifics of the issue)."

"I think it is extremely critical that we do not lose our accreditation. I do not feel there is any basis whatsoever for us to be called into question about our accreditation."

"I will do everything in my power to see that Southeastern does not lose accreditation."

Drummond downplayed the impact of the association's statement: "It's

just a compilation of what they put together from the various interviews on the campus. It's what they understood from the various interviews, which took place the very day I was elected."

"They haven't made a report yet, in the sense of any kind of recommendation."

Drummond said he does not believe Southeastern's accreditation is in danger, adding: "We're doing fine, I think. Getting ready for a good fall."

However, Richard Hester, outgoing president of the Southeastern chapter of the American Association of University Professors, took a different view.

"I think the accreditation process moves slowly, but it is in question," he said. "These accreditation status certainly is in question."

He characterized the Association of Theological Schools' statement as "an extremely thorough report by an accrediting agency.... ATS feels the situation at Southeastern calls for the closest possible examination and calls for the institution to take a very serious look at what has happened over the past 12 months."

The Association of Theological Schools "is not in the business of kicking schools out," said Leon Pacala, executive director of the organization. He affirmed the value of Southeastern for theological education and said the association works to strengthen schools, not find excuses to deny accreditation.

The association has withdrawn accreditation from member schools, but that action is unusual, Pacala reported. Decisions concerning the association's accreditation are the province of its commission on accreditation, which will consider Southeastern's case, he said.

"Southeastern is a very significant resource for theological education," he noted. "Its well-being is a very important matter for the association."

We want to make sure that whatever we do we do in the best interest of Southeastern."

Married love is focus of retreat

"The Language of Marriage" is the theme for the first Fairmont Marriage to be held, Sept. 23-25. Hotel in New Orleans on the program in Mississippi and Karen Mumbower and Mark and Margaret Hensley. Mumbower is minister of counseling at First Church, Jackson, and Hensley is family ministry consultant for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Workshops on communication, intimacy, problem solving, money management, and spiritual growth are offered.

Preston and Genie Dyer, authors of the book which is the title of the conference, are marriage and family counselors in Waco, Tex., and will lead the book study.

Other festivals will take place at Ridgecrest and Glorieta Baptist Conference Centers and at Osage Beach, Mo.

For information on registration and fees, contact Hensley at 968-3800 at the Baptist Building in Jackson.

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Sunday School scenes

By Tim Nicholas

The Communicating Jesus was Jim Futral's topic during a session at a Sunday School conference this summer at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly.

Futral, president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention and pastor of Jackson's Broadmoor Church, spoke to Sunday School leaders of the various ways in which Jesus communicated with people.

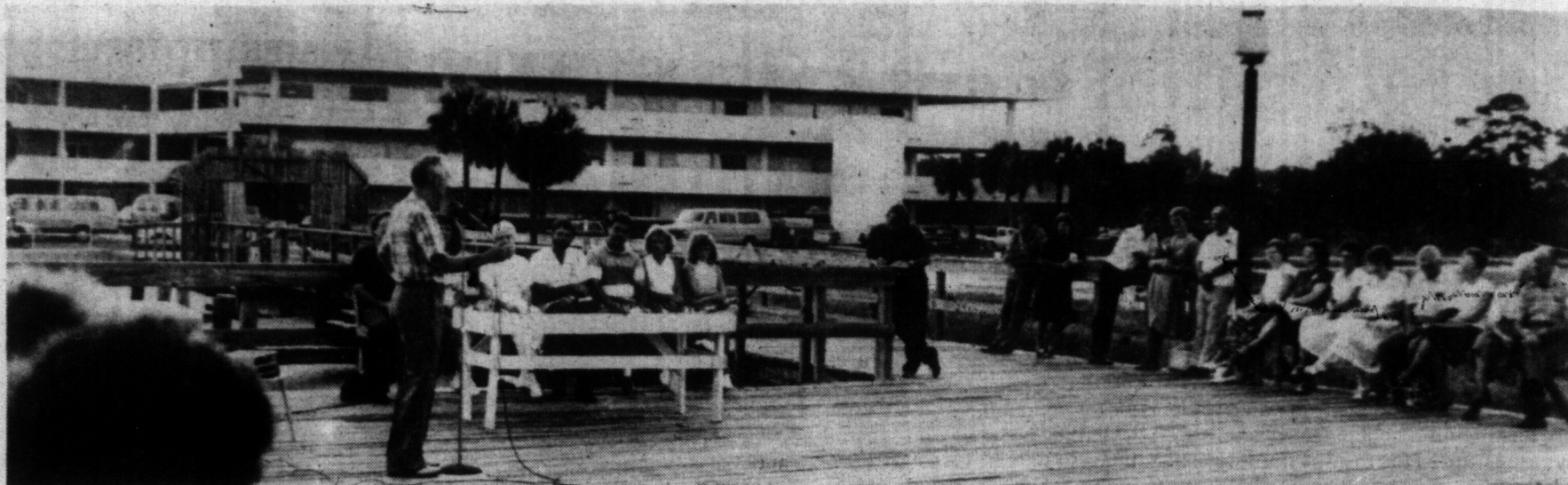
Futral, using alliteration, itemized Jesus styles of communication, the substance of it, and the significance of it.

Jesus used speech, said Futral, that was both spirit and life . . . "spiritual in nature and lifegiving in impact," he said. He used silence to communicate, such as before Caiaphas. "He held his peace and let his life speak," said Futral.

Jesus used sight, as when he looked at Peter after Peter's third denial. "Ever had Jesus look that way at you?" Futral said. "I have sensed his look on my life." And Jesus used scribbling when the adulterer was brought before him and he wrote in the dirt before giving his answer.

Concerning the substance of Jesus' communication, according to Futral, Jesus always communicated truth. "If you ever get close to Jesus, you're going to hear absolute truth," said Futral.

Jesus communicated faith and (Continued on page 9)



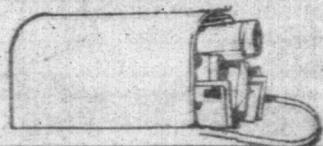
Sunday School Department staffer Judd Allen leads a dawn devotional on the pier at Gulfshore. Allen's talks have become a fixture during Sunday School conferences each year.



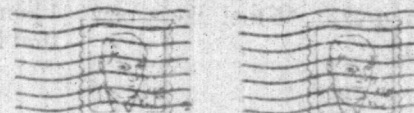
Pictured are Linda King and Lew King, each singing solos at Gulfshore's Sunday School conference.



Jim Futral talks with Sunday School conference participant Gladys Young, a member of West Jackson Street Church in Tupelo.



Letters to the editor



Letters to the editor must be limited to 300 words and the editor reserves the right to trim those that are longer. Editorial prerogatives must be reserved under all circumstances, and the opinions of the letter writers do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff of the Baptist Record. Only signed letters will be used, but the writer may request that his name be withheld.

"Biblical" Baptist

Editor:

I just thought that I would drop you a letter and tell you that I appreciated your sharing of your beliefs in the Aug. 4 issue of the Baptist Record. Beliefs like those make you a "biblical" Baptist, and I thank God for them.

I also liked last week's paper and just want you to know that you are still on my prayer list.

David Howell
Magnolia

Thank you. That is very meaningful. — Editor

Powerline for teens

You're so wrong in your advice in your answers to those questions asked by the teens on "shyness." Having been there myself, these suggestions that you give just don't work. To ask another to talk about himself or read a lot to join in as a part — none of that absolutely will do one bit of good. It's obvious that you've always been into

all of the "cliques" the typical radical Baptists are so famous for — don't-rock-the-boat type believer. If you've got something to say that would really glorify our Lord (he was all human and all God with all power and authority he (they) had in heaven when the world was created) and bring praise and honor to him for who he is and the miracles he is doing even today as he's gone back into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father making intercession for you. Why do you pray for the sick and grieved at all if you do not believe in answers (or that he cares for you and yours)? You deny the power of the Holy Spirit as diety, miracles and the resurrection of Christ to the point of firing a missionary teacher. Don't you know you watered down the Word of God to fit your own thinking so that it's not worth the paper it's written on? Don't you know also how displeased your Heavenly Father must be with all you radical Baptists? In the eyes of true believers, you're worse than the Jews who are still looking for a "king."

Mrs. Johnnie R. Williams
Tupelo

A young man of vision

Editor:

I believe this is my first letter to the editor. In this instance it might be better labeled a letter to Mississippi youth ministries.

Last year about this time one of the finest youth ministers in Mississippi, Bruce Fields, moved from First Baptist Church, Biloxi, to Dawson Memorial Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama. Bruce's leadership in youth ministry in the state has been greatly missed, and yet we praise God for his effectiveness in our sister state.

Now another of our state's most effective men in youth ministry is soon to depart. John Howard, who has been the minister of youth at Colonial Heights Baptist Church in Jackson eight years, is soon to begin some exciting youth ministry overseas. Not only has John had a model youth ministry at Colonial Heights, but he has been a primary voice in visionary associational and state level youth ministry development in Mississippi. John has been co-chairman for the first two years for Mississippi Super Summer Youth Evangelism and Discipleship School. He has well represented the heartbeat for excellence that is beginning to shape and impact Mississippi Baptist Youth Ministry. On behalf of the Super Summer Executive Staff and all the men

with "the key" in Mississippi youth ministry, I want to say, "Thank you for being a blessing, for always giving a 100 percent effort, for always crying with us, dreaming our Lord, for always attempting the impossible with us. We love you a ton, and we really going to miss you. You will be in our prayers as you and your family begin this exciting new adventure for Jesus."

Rich Malone
Minister of youth and college
Parkway Church, Jackson

Information on Gambrells

Editor:

In 1887, J. B. Gambrell's son, Roderick, was killed in Jackson, Miss. At the time the father was editor of the Baptist Record, and the son was editor of the Sword and Shield, a prohibition newspaper.

For a research paper on that topic, I would appreciate hearing from anyone with information concerning young Gambrell's death or the family's prohibition and reform work in Mississippi, and from anyone with manuscripts, letters, or memorabilia from the Gambrell family in that era.

Tim Nicholas
Associate editor
The Baptist Record
Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205
(601) 968-3800

Michael Willett

Editor:

In regard to your editorial about Mr. Willett, the missionary who was dismissed by the Foreign Mission Board for doubting the authenticity of Jesus' miracles, and in particular her statement, "We may get to but hand find Mr. Willett was right; source meantime, we have no somewhat downright," you seem is God's Word, and God's Word away. And it is truth. I will never pass attention to II Peter 1:12-21 all your quote only one statement in that passage made by Peter, (II Peter 1:16). We did not follow cleverly invented stories when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ but were eyewitnesses of his majesty."

Marilyn C. Flowers
Jackson

The editorial pointed out what Mr. Willett believes, it pointed out what I believe, it noted that there is a difference between the two, and it made no attempt to establish a connection between them. — Editor

Women are very loyal. When they reach an age, they like to stick to it. — The Lachute (Canada) Watchman



Faces and places

by Anne Washburn McWilliams



"Come ye to the waters . . ."

Not far from Mt. Zion Church in Lincoln County, Elizabeth Tullos and her friend, Leslie, and I walked up and down a steep hill and to a fish pond in the woods. The nine-year-olds and I were looking for a cool place on a hot day; they wanted me to go swimming with them in the pond. "I'm scared of snakes," I told them. They said there were none in the pond. We climbed down the ladder by the pier and stuck our feet into the water. I pulled one foot out; it looked muddy brown, but felt nice and chilled. "I don't have a bathing suit with me," I argued. But they had jumped in with their clothes on the day before, they said. That sounded okay, but it was time for us to go back to the house and eat some of Elizabeth's great-grandmother Minnie's birthday dinner. "Let's go," I said. "I want a drink of water." After lunch, I had a headache. "I do like to swim," I assured the girls. But they probably didn't believe me.

Daddy's favorite vacation spot was the seaside; usually, when I was a child, that was Panama City. There were no condominiums then and few luxury hotels. The first time we went, we rented a house on a hillside near some woods, four or five blocks from the beach. We had to walk down the hill to the water, but that was all right. We could almost taste the salt in the air. Daddy quickly went for a swim. Afterward, he grinned, took a deep breath, and said, "I feel like a new person already!"

The summer before he died of emphysema, he and I read a newsmagazine that showed pictures of the state park at Gulfshores, Ala. He looked with longing at the fishing pier, the cabins by a bay, the sea and sand dunes. If only he could go there, he thought, the ocean air would be easy to breathe. But when W.D. and I drove him there, it was, as often is the case, not as good as the pictures in the book had looked. The cabins were surrounded by mosquitoes, so we stayed in a motel. The waves were so strong and high that Daddy could not begin to compete with them without getting knocked down. In spite of these disappointments, he was as happy as a little boy with a new toy. When I look at a picture now that I took of Mama and him on the white sand, I see in his eyes a twinkle, a sense of satisfaction at being by the sea.

Three weeks ago, on August 13, our family met again at Gulfshores, this time without Daddy, but with some added in-laws and grandchildren. My nephew, Tommy Brown, and his wife, Susan, had rented a condominium called "The Crow's Nest."

Since the others had beat us there by a night, they were already ensconced. Tommy and Susan had one bedroom upstairs, Luann and Bubba and their two-year-old Holly the other. Downstairs, Betty and Karen and three-year-old Heather were sleeping in the one bedroom, and Mama was on an air mattress in the living room. I joined Mama on the air mattress, so that left W.D. the roll-away bed. That

night I didn't sleep so well; I felt like I was getting closer and closer to the floor. Someone had knocked the stopper out of the mattress, and the air was leaking out.

When Holly stepped into the beach sand, she complained, "Dirty, dirty!" so Luann helped her wash her feet and hands at the edge of the ocean. In a few minutes, she glanced up and suddenly saw her grandmother in the water. Holly laughed aloud: "Look! look! Mama Bett's in the tub."

Heather preferred the swimming pool to the sea, so we would swim in one and then the other; eat a while; walk on the beach a while; sunbathe a while . . . She and Susan and I tried a bit of sand sculpturing, and Heather soon had some strange shapes formed. A woman stopped to ask her what that was. "Sand," she said.

While Tommy and Susan cooked shrimp for our supper, the rest of us lolled on the front deck, watching the late afternoon sunshine dance on the turquoise waves. Just to sit and listen to the swish of waves against the sand and to feel the wind iron the stress out of taut muscles! I felt like a new person already! And I thought again of Daddy's belief in the healing powers of the salty sea and the salty sea air.

Grandma Washburn's favorite Bible verse was "Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters . . ." (Isaiah 55:1). What a wonderful invitation! Another is in Rev. 22:17: "Let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely."

Thursday, September 8, 1988

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 7



Pineview pastor Benton Preston talks with church deacon Wesley Reeves, captain with the Clinton Police Department at the entrance to the church property.

State Missions provides scratch to start church

By Tim Nicholas

Pineview Baptist Church in Clinton started from scratch about a year ago. It had its first service on its property last November.

And it was the Mississippi Baptist Convention, through its Margaret Lackey Offering for State Missions that provided the scratch to buy the property. Of the \$550,000 1988 goal, \$145,000 is tagged for new missions.

Offering money paid for six acres of land owned by Mississippi College on the Clinton-Raymond Road. The convention board is loaning one of its new double-wide mobile homes to serve as worship space. Hinds-Madison Baptist Association has given two more trailers to the church which has bought a seventh acre, retaining an option on three more.

The church got its start in talks between Pastor Benton Preston and

Hinds-Madison Director of Missions J. W. Brister. A new church would be ideal in the area which anticipates 800 new homes to be built in just the adjacent subdivision.

The church began a year ago meeting in a building called Cell Block -1 in Old Town Clinton with Sunday School in a member's beauty shop, Shearer's House of Beauty. Services began on the current property last November.

The scratch start included members clearing the land themselves, pulling weeds, and deciding what kind of church they would build.

"To a person, they indicated we wanted our church to be a church that reaches out to people," said Preston, "not for numbers' sake, but a church that cares."

Right now members are systematically knocking on every door in the community, "telling people we're here and excited about the Lord's work," says Preston.

The church, says Preston, isn't growing as fast as the group would like, but they have 92 enrolled in Sunday School with no place to put any more. Attendance is averaging in the mid-70s in Sunday School. The church gives 10 percent of its budget to the Cooperative Program and three percent to the association.

"This is going to be one of the strongest churches in the state," says Preston. "And it would not have been possible without the Mississippi Baptist Convention and the Hinds-Madison Association."

He adds, "This will be a strong witness for Christ and Mississippi Baptists will have had a part in it."

BFM statement proposed for hymnal

NASHVILLE (BP) — An organization structure based on "The Baptist Faith and Message" statement will be recommended for the new Baptist hymnal to be published in 1991.

The three broad categories for hymns are titled "The Glory of God," "The People of God," and "The Witness of God's People." Subcategories under each topic would specify hymns which address each subject area.

Parkway, Jackson, will honor pastor on 25th year

Parkway Church, Jackson, will honor its pastor, Bill Causey and his family on the occasion of their 25 years of leadership at the church. A time for special recognition will be a part of the 10:30 a.m. worship service on Sept. 11.



Causey moved to Parkway in 1963 from the pastorate of Poplar Springs Drive Church, Meridian. The Greenville native and his wife, Charlotte, have a son, Bill, and two daughters, Carol and Carley. He is a graduate of Mississippi College and Southern Seminary. In 1968, Mississippi College conferred on him the honorary doctor of divinity degree.

Elected in 1978 as president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, he served two terms. Also he has served as trustee of Southern Seminary and on the board of directors for Mississippi Baptist Medical Center.

As Parkway pastors for Mississippi Baptist Medical Center, music suites, and acoustics has led in the building of a new sanctuary, office, social transition, he has been leading. Though the church is in an area of great guidance, the church's professional staff is surviving and thriving. Under his was started; key properties around the church have been expanded; a bus ministry Parkway Sunday School has been listed as one of the fastest growing Sunday Schools in the SBC.

It was Causey who developed a Wednesday night program on family, a forerunner of this type program in the SBC. The main emphasis of his ministry has been "Let's do it together." The church is known for its support of churches and/or people in need. An unusually large number of former members are now engaged in full-time Christian service.

Mrs. Causey, soprano soloist and Bible teacher, started the singles ministry at Parkway, as well as couples Sunday school classes.

Devotional

To be like Jesus

By Bobby Williamson
Philippians 2:5

Did you know that nothing quite reveals the condition of a person as his or her face does? Someone has said, "The face is the index of one's character, the face is the map of one's mind. It is the spokesman of the soul. It is the X-ray of the heart."

We know that the face is made handsome or homely by God. It is made pleasant or unpleasant by us.

I believe each of us today could name those we know who once had beautiful faces, but those faces have now been made unattractive by sin; but we could also name many whose faces are physically unlovely, but that have been made attractive by the love that shines through them. Very sadly, we have seen sin's crowbar take a lovely face and wreck it with the scars of evil. We've seen sin's wrecking crew remove a blush of innocence and replace it with the hardness of guilt.

We've all seen what hatred can do to a face. We've seen what bitterness can do to a face. Yes, we've all seen what sin can do to a face.

But I thank God that we've also seen the love of Christ make one's face glow with a radiance of love that can only come from God.

I'm convinced today that the greatest beauty course in the world is a clean, pure, Christian life. We need to teach our young people today that Revlon or Avon has nothing to offer to put the blush of innocence back on their faces. They can ring that doorbell all they want to, but they have nothing to offer that can put the sweetness and the loveliness of virtue and chastity and decency and respect and honor on the face of anyone.

Nothing makes the face what it ought to be like the righteousness of God in living in our lives. Our prayer every day should be, "Let others see Jesus in me."

Bobby Williamson is pastor, Park Place Church, Brandon/Petal.



These were the leaders in the Interfaith Witness Blitz held in Simpson County. From left they are Juanita and Glen Schilling; Eunice and Hollis Bryant; Tillie and Wayne Gullett; Dale and Donna Sumrall; Don Sorrels; and Jane and L. C. Newell.

Interfaith Witness goes on blitz

A total of 2,127 people participated in the first-ever Interfaith Witness Blitz on Aug. 16.

That Sunday, 10 Interfaith Witness associates spoke in services in 17 churches in Simpson County. The 10 men and women who are trained and certified in various areas of interfaith work, led in Sunday Schools, morning and evening worship, and in Church Training programs that day.

Subjects taught included Jehovah's Witnesses, led by Wayne Gullett, Glen Schilling, and Hollis Bryant; New

Age, led by Mrs. Eunice Bryant; Mormonism, led by Mrs. Tillie Gullett and L.C. Newell; Occult, led by Don Sorrels; Unification, led by Mrs. Donna Sumrall; The Way, led by Hollis Bryant; and Islam, led by Mrs. Juanita Schilling.

Purpose of the blitz was to acquaint Simpson County Baptists with the various cults and sects which are growing even in the Bible Belt. The leaders gave brief histories of the groups being discussed, shared

theological differences between them and Baptists, and emphasized how Baptists can relate to and witness effectively to them.

The blitz was developed by Simpson director of missions Glen Schilling and Hollis Bryant, interfaith consultant for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Bryant said that churches and associations may contact his office at the convention board to arrange for interfaith conferences at 968-3800.

Staff changes



Miller

Paul Miller, a native of Arkansas, has been called to Mantee Church of Mantee as pastor. He is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University in Arkansas and Southwestern Seminary.

Friendship Church, Grenada, has called Terry Cain as minister of music and youth, effective Aug. 7. He moved to Grenada from Morgantown Church, Natchez. Cain is a graduate of Blue Mountain College and New Orleans Seminary.

Dexter Ware is interim pastor at Branch Church, Scott Association. He is a graduate of Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary.

"If God had really intended men to fly, He'd make it easier to get to the airport."

— GEORGE WINTERS

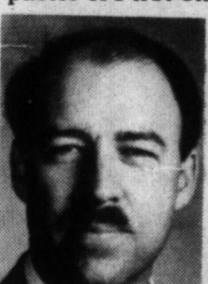
First Church, Richland, announces two recent staff changes. Curtis Hatcher has accepted the call as full-time



Hatcher

minister of music and youth. Hatcher had previously served First Church, Richland, as interim minister of music and later as part-time minister of music. Under the new staff organization Clay Moss will serve as part-time minister of evangelism and missions. Moss had previously served as part-time minister of youth and missions.

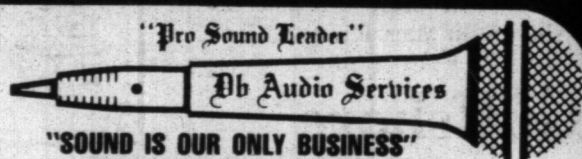
Jimmy Smith began serving as pastor of First Church, Plantersville, in mid July. He moved to Plantersville after a five-year pastorate at Parkway Church, Kosciusko. Plantersville Church is celebrating its centennial year in September.



Smith

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ACTS

SATELLITE NETWORK, INC.

Effective June 5, 1988

CT	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
5 ³⁰	Joy of Music Christopher Clump	Sgt. Preston Cisco Kid	Adventures of The Lone Ranger 26 Men	Great Churches of America (I)	Carrascollas Vegetable Soup	Great Churches of America (II)	The Bible and Life Sunday School
6 ³⁰	Life Today Hospital	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Davey and Goliath Color Me a Rainbow
7 ³⁰	First Love Wendell Estep Changed Lives	Prime Timers Sunshine Factory	Profiles Sunshine Factory	Word of Life Sunshine Factory	Gloria Sunshine Factory	Catch the Spirit Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory Set the Vibron
8 ³⁰	ACTS Methodist Hour	Shippy, the Bush Kangaroo Lassie	Shippy, the Bush Kangaroo Lassie	Shippy, the Bush Kangaroo Lassie	Shippy, the Bush Kangaroo Lassie	Shippy, the Bush Kangaroo Lassie	Lone Ranger Cartoon Adventures of The Lone Ranger
9 ³⁰	Come Alive Nelson Price	One in The Spirit Sgt. Preston	Catch the Spirit Strength for Life Ken Hemphill	Truth Alive Ron Herrod Come Alive Nelson Price	To Be Announced Carrascollas	Christian Lifestyle Magazine Great Churches of America (II)	Popcorn Theater
10 ³⁰	Catch the Spirit FBC Richmond	Cisco Kid To Be Announced	What's Happening	What's Happening	Vegetable Soup What's Happening	What's Happening	26 Men
11 ³⁰	Great Churches of America (I)	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Hollywood Review	Jimmy Houston Outdoors Magazine
12 ³⁰	The Baptist Hour	Prime Timers Eggsore Theater	Profiles Eggsore Theater	Word of Life Eggsore Theater	Gloria Eggsore Theater	"	Plant David Made
1 ³⁰	Sunday Selection	"	"	"	"	"	The Bible and Life Sunday School
2 ³⁰	Profiles	COPE	COPE	COPE	COPE	COPE	Davey and Goliath Color Me a Rainbow
3 ³⁰	Love Worth Finding Adrian Rogers	Psychiatry and You Sunshine Factory	Psychiatry and You Sunshine Factory	Psychiatry and You Sunshine Factory	Psychiatry and You Sunshine Factory	Psychiatry and You Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory Set the Vibron
4 ³⁰	Joy of Music Opie in the Spirit	Shippy, the Bush Kangaroo Lassie	Shippy, the Bush Kangaroo Lassie	Shippy, the Bush Kangaroo Lassie	Shippy, the Bush Kangaroo Lassie	Shippy, the Bush Kangaroo Lassie	Lone Ranger Cartoon Adventures of The Lone Ranger
5 ³⁰	Making Life Count Arthur Calandro The Life	Adventures of The Lone Ranger 26 Men	Great Churches of America (I)	Carrascollas Vegetable Soup	Great Churches of America (II)	Sgt. Preston Cisco Kid	Popcorn Theater
6 ³⁰	Insight ACTS Methodist Hour	What's Happening Today	What's Happening Life Today	What's Happening Life Today	What's Happening Life Today	What's Happening Life Today	Country Crossroads
7 ³⁰	Life Together Neal T. Jones	Profiles	Word of Life	Gloria	Catch the Spirit	Prime Timers	Sing Out America
8 ³⁰	The Baptist Hour Eggsore Theater	Joy of Music Truth Alive Ron Herrod	Catch the Spirit To Be Announced	For These Times Robert White	Invitation to Life Ken Hemphill	Strength for Life Ken Hemphill	Great Churches of America (II)
9 ³⁰	Richard Jackson	COPE	COPE	COPE	COPE	COPE	In Concert
10 ³⁰	To Be Announced Christopher Clump	Eggsore Theater	Eggsore Theater	The Baptist Hour	Eggsore Theater	Eggsore Theater	Bobby Jones Gospel Light Music
11 ³⁰	The Life Purcell Selection	Adventures of The Lone Ranger	Great Churches of America (I)	The Life Carrascollas	Great Churches of America (II)	"	Popcorn Theater
12 ³⁰	"	26 Men	What's Happening	What's Happening	What's Happening	What's Happening	Cisco Kid
1 ³⁰	Profiles	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	26 Men
2 ³⁰	ACTS Methodist Hour	Profiles	Word of Life COPE	Gloria COPE	Catch the Spirit COPE	Prime Timers COPE	"
3 ³⁰	Christopher Clump Sunday Selection	Eggsore Theater	Eggsore Theater	Eggsore Theater	Eggsore Theater	Eggsore Theater	Sing Out America
4 ³⁰	"	"	"	"	"	"	"

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Van Winkle Church will celebrate 50 years

Van Winkle Church, Jackson, will celebrate its 50th anniversary on Sept. 18, beginning at 10 a.m. and concluding at 3:30 p.m. The church has pastor, Ferrell Cork, Jr.

At the morning service, John Brock, Ackerman, former Van Winkle pastor, will preach. The Martin Sisters Trio and Daryl Randall, former minister of music at the church, will present special music.

A time has been allotted for honoring the charter members. Two of them, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Norton, are still active in the church.

Mrs. Rachel Milner, widow of former long-time pastor at Van Winkle, Herman Milner, will present "Moments in History." A catered luncheon will be served at noon in the Family Life Center named for Herman Milner.

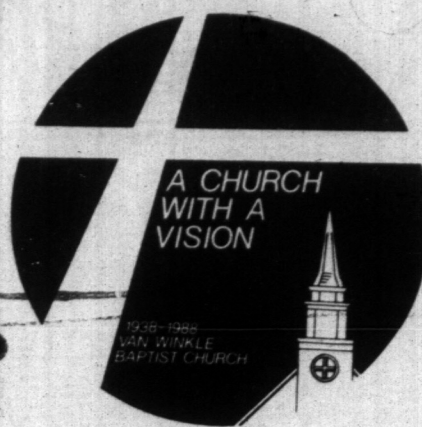
The afternoon session, at 1:30, will be on the theme, "Reflections on the

past and encouragement for the future."

On May 10, 1938, Van Winkle Baptist Church was organized, after beginning as prayer meetings at home. There were 54 charter members. In 1942 an auditorium was completed.

The fourth pastor, Herman Milner, served longer than any other of the pastors — 33 years — from 1945 until his death in 1978. On June 24, 1953, the church burned. In 1955 the congregation moved into a new sanctuary.

Van Winkle was instrumental in starting the Robinson Street Church, Westview Church, Magnolia Park Church, Burch Hill Church, Morrison Heights Church, and Parkhill Church. It has sponsored three missions in Ohio that became churches. Recently it sponsored Cumberland Baptist Church, Vineland, N.J.



Homecomings

New Prospect (Lincoln): Sept. 11; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; Randall Walker, pastor, speaker; John Jerry Smith, music; lunch served at noon; afternoon services, 1:15 p.m.; cemetery report and memorial services, gospel singing by Richard Carol Smith, Carrene Oliver, John Jerry Smith, and ladies' trio — Ruth Oliver, Pat Case, and Eva Lambright.

Colonial Heights, Jackson: Sept. 11; morning worship, 9:30 and 10:45 a.m.; churchwide supper, 5 p.m.; gospel artist, Larnelle Harris in concert, 7 p.m.; J. Gerald Harris, pastor

Lula, West County Line Road and Highway 22, (Hinds-Madison): Sept. 11; dinner on the grounds; M. David Sills, pastor.

Female bishops?

CANTERBURY, England (EP) — A majority of the world's Anglican bishops, representing 70 million Protestants, voted 423-28 Aug. 1 to permit individual church provinces to ordain women bishops.

The vote will make it possible for the U.S. Episcopal Church to elect its first female bishop as early as September, when two of its 900 female priests will seek election to the bishopric in Massachusetts.

Gulfshore

(Continued from page 6)

hope, "He was wondrously able to bring people to the land of beginning again," said Futral.

And Jesus communicated love. Futral recounted visiting a ward for profoundly retarded people. One went into convulsions and was immediately tended to with loving affection. The patient quickly calmed down. Said the superintendent, "The only thing they understand is that we love them."

Said Futral to the conference participants, "Oh, that my church could be like that... people contorted, twisted, occasionally screaming out in a voice we can't interpret... the only time they'll understand is when the church cares enough to communicate love."

The first five Sunday School leadership conferences drew 821 persons. Two more are planned — this weekend, Sept. 9-10, and Sept. 16-17. Besides training teachers and other leaders, the conferences are training ASSIST leaders, special education teachers, and those in church media library work.

Revival dates

Pulaski, Pulaski: Sept. 11-14; Sunday 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.; weekday services, 7 p.m.; Jack Demoney, pastor; Sardis Lake, evangelist; Donnie and Cynthia Stuart, music; Jim Holcomb, pastor.

Hurricane Creek (Marion): Sept. 11-16; Sept. 11, 75th anniversary; service, 11 a.m. with lunch at the church and 1:30 p.m. service; services, Mon-Fri., 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.; W. E. Spencer, former pastor, preaching; Dallas Rayborn, music; M. L. Wallace, pastor.

Yale Street, Cleveland: Sept. 11-16; guest evangelist, Dan Robertson, West Heights, Pontotoc; music evangelist, Jimmy Smith, Ruleville; Sunday services, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; week night services, 7:30 p.m.; Gary Reichenbach, pastor.

Chancellor dies

MACON, Ga. (BP) — Mercer University Chancellor Rufus C. Harris, president of the Baptist college for 20 years before retiring in 1980, died Aug. 18 at age 91.

Harris, recognized as an outstanding educator and former president of Tulane University in New Orleans, had fallen and broken a hip the previous weekend. His death was attributed to old age and complications from the fall.

Shiloh, Corinth: Sept. 12-16; services, 7 p.m.; Kara Blackard, pastor; Wheeler Grove, Corinth, evangelist; Jim Pinkston, Oakland, Corinth, music; Billy Beckett, pastor.

Lula (Hinds-Madison): Sept. 12-16; services, 7 p.m.; David Sills, pastor, preaching; Rick Van Egmond, music; Rodney Dixon, guest pianist.

Hermanville, Hermanville: Sept. 9-11; 7 p.m. services; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; morning worship, 11 a.m.; dinner on the grounds; afternoon service, 1:30 p.m.; Ricky Johnston, full-time evangelist, McComb, guest speaker; Curtis Carter, Port Gibson, minister of music; Donald I. Pouns, pastor.

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Ridgecrest, Jackson, plans to relocate in Madison County

Ridgecrest Church, Jackson, is hosting a "Ridgecrest Reflections Weekend" to celebrate its final Sunday morning worship service on Sept. 11. The schedule is as follows:

Sept. 10, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., softball and other activities; 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m., "Special Program & Fellowship" covered dish supper, slide presentation and program, senior adult singing program, and young adult ensemble quartet.

Sept. 11, 9:15 a.m.-10:15 a.m., Sunday School; 10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m., worship service — Fred Tarpley.

Beginning Sept. 18, all Sunday School classes, Sunday morning services, and Sunday evening services will be held in the cafeteria at Madison Ridgeland Academy, located on the corner of Old Canton Road and St. Augustine. Sunday School will begin at 9:15 a.m., morning worship at 10:30 a.m., and evening worship at 6 p.m. each Sunday. At present, all Wednesday night services will continue to be held in the Ridgecrest Church building (Tarpley Hall), located at 428 W. Northside Drive. Joe Chapman is associate pastor.

Attention WMU leaders! A correction please...

At the local WMU leader training at Garaywa in August, a list of missionaries who have served in Nigeria and could teach the foreign mission study book was given. The telephone

number for John and Fonce McFadden in Tupelo is wrong. The correct telephone number for the McFaddens is: 842-1265. Please make the correction on your list.

Mississippi Baptist activities

- Sept. 11 Single Adult Sunday (Fam. Min.-CT Emphasis)
- Sept. 11-14 State Missions Season of Prayer & Margaret Lackey Offering (WMU Emphasis)
- Sept. 12 Parent/Child Relations in the Pastor's Home; Alta Woods BC, Jackson; 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (CAPM)
Area Brotherhood Leadership Training; 7-9 p.m.; FBC, Senatobia/Calvary BC, Starkville/FBC, Brookhaven (BRO)
- Sept. 13 Parent/Child Relations in the Pastor's Home; Main Street, BC, Hattiesburg; 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (CAPM)
Area Brotherhood Leadership Training; 7-9 p.m. Temple BC, Hattiesburg/Poplar Springs Drive BC, Meridian/FBC, New Albany (BRO)
- Sept. 14 Parent/Child Relations in the Pastor's Home; FBC, Grenada; 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (CAPM)
- Sept. 15 Area Brotherhood Leadership Training; 7-9 p.m.; FBC, Ocean Springs/Ridgecrest BC, Jackson/N. Greenwood BC, Greenwood (BRO)
- Sept. 16-17 Mother/Daughter Overnight; Camp Garaywa; 4 p.m., 16th-12:30 p.m., 17th (WMU)
State YouthPlus Seminar; Gulfshore Assembly; 5 p.m., 16th-Noon, 17th (SS)
CWE Directors Retreat; Lake Tiak-O'Khata, Louisville; 1 p.m., 16th-1 p.m. 17th (CAPM)
- Sept. 17 Area Preschool/Children's Choir Leadership Clinics; 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; FBC, New Albany/N. Greenwood BC, Greenwood/15th Avenue BC, Meridian/S. McComb BC, McComb (CM)

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary CONTINUING EDUCATION EVENTS

September 1988 - January 1989

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| Sept. 9-10 | Pastoral Leadership Workshop |
| Sept. 23-25 | Fall Festival of Marriage |
| Sept. 26 | January Bible Study Preview |
| Oct. 4-6 | Ministering in the Deaf Congregation |
| Nov. 11-13 | Student Missions Conference |
| Nov. 17-19 | Prayer for Spiritual Awakening Conference |
| Nov. 28-Dec. 2 | Personal and Career Development Week |
| Dec. 12-14 | Models for Metropolitan Ministry |
| Jan. 9-12 | Music Symposium |



For more information on these and other upcoming conferences contact:
Dr. Paul E. Robertson, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary,
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1989 Year of the Laity Goal:
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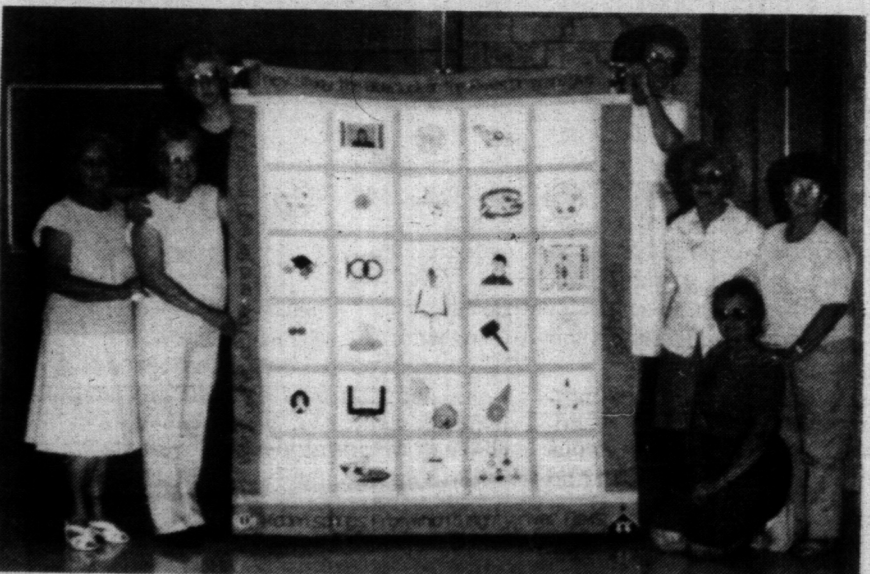


For further information, contact your state director of Evangelism or the Personal Evangelism Department • Home Mission Board, SBC • 1350 Spring Street, NW • Atlanta, GA 30367-5601.

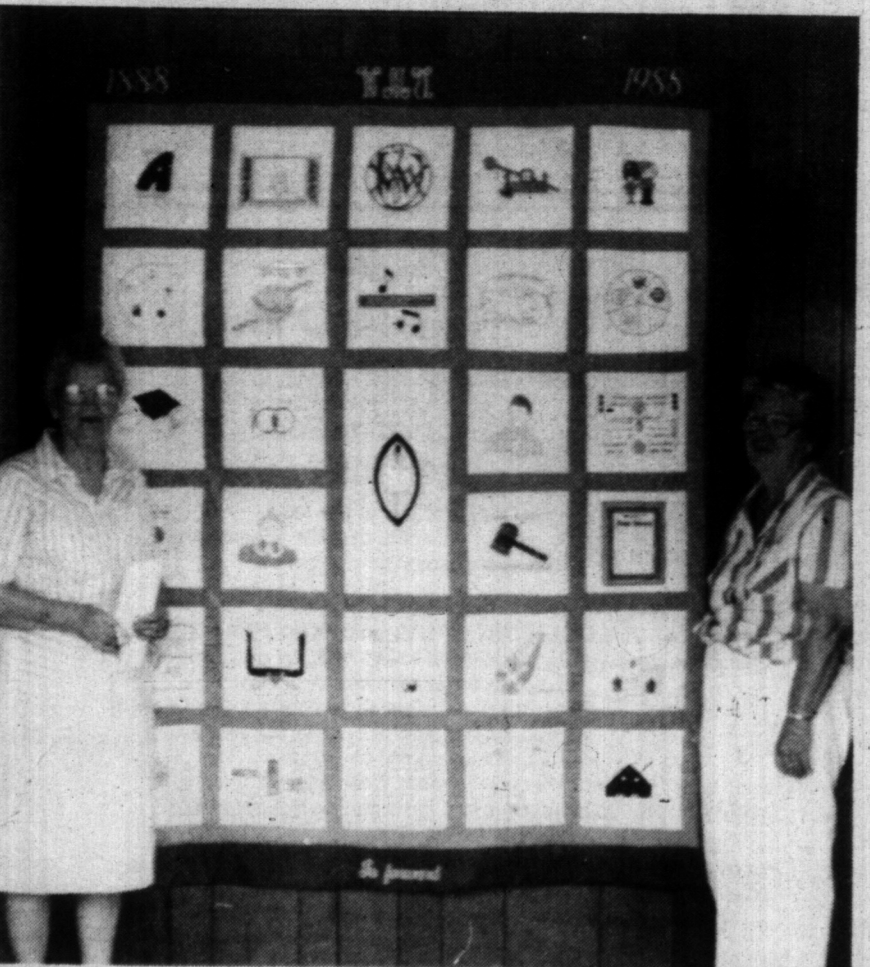
Just for the Record



The WMU of Southside Church, Yazoo City, presented its centennial quilt to the church. Pictured are Sharon Ryals, Luellen Mathis, Sandra Ryals, Mrs. Bertha Taylor (president), Iva Moore, Kelly Ward and Mildred Johnston. Not pictured are Paulette Kilpatrick (centennial chairman), Mary Emma Sanford, Hazel Sanford, Sandie Gregg, Dorothy Thrasher, and Lonnie Mathis, who drew the squares on the quilt.



The Baptist Women and Baptist Young Women of First Church, Nesbit, put together a WMU centennial quilt. It was quilted by the ladies and members of Mission Friends, Girls in Action, and Acteens. Pictured are Baptist Women (left to right), Alice Russell, Kathleen Taylor, Shirley May, Ludie Wilson, Kathleen Briggs, Louise Gardner, and Catherine Tyler.



The WMU of South McComb Church, McComb, celebrated the WMU centennial by presenting the church a centennial quilt. Pictured are Mrs. Alice Mercier, WMU director, and Mrs. Sara Empson, centennial chairman.

Correction: W. R. Storie and Mrs. Storie had been married 62 years, September 5, and not 64 years as noted in the Aug. 25 issue of the Record.

Calvary, Columbus, now merged with Faith Church, is having groundbreaking service Sept. 11 at 11 a.m. for a new sanctuary with seating capacity of 600, and educational office space. Roy Hawkins is pastor.

David Shirley, pastor of Pleasant Dale Church, Union County Association, has been certified as associate in Interfaith Witness for New Age Movements by the Home Mission Board. Bryan Horton, pastor of Sallis Church, has been certified to teach on Mormonism. And Ann Huber of Grenada has been certified to teach on Jehovah's Witnesses.

Don and Anne Dent, missionaries to Singapore, are living in First Church, Clinton's missionary apartment at Pine Trails Apts. M-5, Clinton 39056. They will be there through May, 1989, while on furlough. Born in Jackson, he grew up in Corinth and Holly Springs and was graduated from Mississippi College and Golden Gate Seminary. Born in Brookhaven, she was graduated from Mississippi College. He was formerly a BSU summer missionary to East Malaysia; she served as BSU summer missionary in Kenya. They have a daughter, Chesed, 5, and a son, Robert, 4.

Northminster Church, Jackson, is celebrating its new church facilities with an Open House from 3 until 5 o'clock on Sept. 18.

First, Hickory Flat to celebrate 100th year

First Church, Hickory Flat, will celebrate its 100th anniversary, Sept. 11. J. D. Joslin, one of the former pastors, will preach in the morning service. Jim Futral will preach the evening message at 4 p.m. An evening meal will follow the service. There will be special singing and church history. R. J. Bostick is pastor.

Concord (Franklin) will celebrate 100th

Concord Church (Franklin) will celebrate its centennial, Sept. 11.

The morning service begins with Sunday School at 10 a.m. and worship service at 11 a.m. Reece Kysar, former pastor, now pastor at Rolling Fork, message. A covered dish meal will be held following the morning worship.

The centennial celebration will begin at 2 p.m. in the sanctuary. The program will include recognitions, special music, and other activities. A booklet containing history, and facts is being prepared.

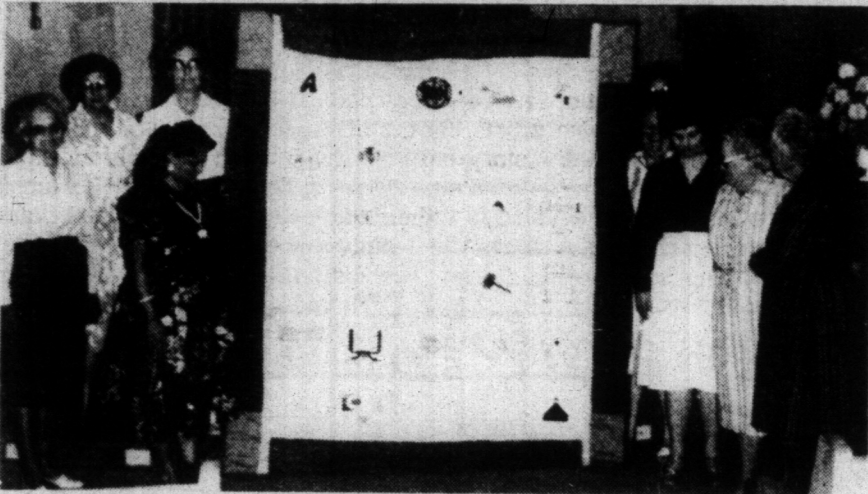
Many members and friends plan to attend in historic dress and will travel by horse or wagon.

Revival results

Macedonia, Brookhaven: Donnie Guy, evangelist; The Rouse Family, music; Robert Perry, pastor; 29 professions of faith, one by letter.



North Greenwood Church, Greenwood, held a note burning Aug. 21. This signaled the final payment on the note for the church's sanctuary, completed in 1973. Left to right, above, are Ben Strain, chairman of deacons; Bert Breland, pastor; and Fred Burke, chairman of the property committee.



Pine Grove, Neshoba County, Baptist Women and Baptist Young Women made and quilted a WMU centennial quilt which will be hung in the church fellowship hall. Left to right are Lydia Keen, Nettie Chesney, Jolene Knight, Regina Cleveland, Tootsie Gordon, Geneva Guess, Lavonia Russell, Nannie Adams, and Rachel Killen.

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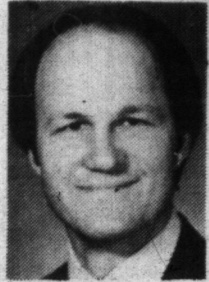
Offering our resources fulfills God's command

By Steve Odom

Exodus 35:4-5, 10, 21-22, 29, 35

The Old Testament book of Exodus is known to most of us primarily because we find in it familiar stories like the liberation of the Hebrews from Egyptian bondage, the life of Moses and the giving of the ten commandments. The importance of the whole book of Exodus has been emphasized by Roy Honeycutt, Old Testament scholar and president of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky. Honeycutt has said that Exodus is to the Old Testament what the Gospels are to the New Testament. That is to say, both proclaim God's saving activity born out of covenant love. Like the Gospels, Exodus also proclaims the absolute lordship of God over history, nature and humanity.

This theme of God's lordship is a theme to which we must constantly return when studying the contents of the book of Exodus. Why did



Odom

LIFE AND WORK

God set the Hebrew people free? Because he had chosen them to be the bearers of his light, and to demonstrate his lordship over time and space. Why did God communicate the ten commandments to Moses and to the Hebrew people? Because they needed the guidance, and to demonstrate his lordship over humanity.

Why did God provide for the wandering Hebrews in the wilderness? Because they needed the provision to survive, and to demonstrate his lordship over nature. His lordship is not one of coercion and self-service. It is one of love and self-sacrifice. It is a lordship that does not inspire fear in us, but a lordship that inspires us to give willingly and gladly back to God love and self-sacrifice as gifts of worship.

Exodus 35 is part of the largest section of chapters 24-40 which is concerned with God as the lord of worship. Chapter 35 deals with three aspects of worship which the Lord commanded the people to do. In verses 1-3 they are commanded to keep the Sabbath rest. In verses 4-9 they are commanded to take an offering to the

Lord from among them. In verses 10-19 they are commanded to bring their abilities and all the needed materials to build and furnish the tabernacle. The remainder of the chapter, verses 20-35, is an account of the response of the people to bring their offerings and their abilities in recognition of God's lordship.

September is typically the month of the year in Southern Baptist life when we are reminded of our stewardship responsibilities as those who accept and proclaim God's lordship over all creation. The covenant relationship we have with God in Christ calls for a conscious, consistent response on our parts to his lordship.

The text we are studying in Exodus says that God commanded the Hebrew people to rest, to take an offering and to use their abilities. Remember, God exercises his lordship out of love and self-sacrifice. His commands are expectations based on a relationship of love and giving. He loves us without condition, but that does not preclude the expectation that we do the same in order to proclaim who we are and whose we are as children of God.

We carry out the work of God in this world most effectively when we demonstrate his lordship in concrete ways. For the Hebrews, that

meant taking an offering of material resources which included precious metals, fine linens, animal skins, wood, oil, spices, and precious stones (verses 5-9). In other words, whatever we have in the way of material resources can be used to demonstrate God's lordship by offering a portion of it to accomplish his work. And what kind of attitude characterizes the one who demonstrates such stewardship? Verse 5 says, "... whoever is of a generous heart, let him bring the Lord's offering." Generosity is a deeply profound attitude that grows out of the recognition of God's lordship.

Another concrete demonstration of God's lordship is the use of our abilities in accomplishing his purposes. Verses 22 and following state that men and women came with their material offerings and used their abilities as well to begin constructing the tabernacle. They were "willing" to use their abilities as evidence of their worship of God.

Material resources and personal abilities are good gifts from a good God. What better way to fulfill the Lord's command than to offer our resources in accomplishing his will?

Odom is pastor, University, Hattiesburg.

Job and his friends: helping people who hurt

By Robert Earl Shirley

Job 2:11-13; 4:1-9; 8:1-10; 11; 13:1-12

There are many people who are terrified at the thought of visiting a friend at the time of sickness or death because they are afraid they will not know what to say. Actually, one's words are of minor importance on such occasions and it is often best to say little or nothing at all. The need is simply to be there as an expression of love and understanding.



Shirley

The three friends who came to comfort Job must be appreciated for the fact that they did come, that they sat with him in silence for seven days and nights, and what they said they said to him rather than about him. Much that they said was true and needed to be said. The problem arose when they dealt with general principles and cold philosophies and forgot the individual.

Eliphaz the Temanite was a self-righteous individual who told of a vision that he had experienced as proof that his religious experience

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was greater than that of Job's. As is nearly always the case with those who are fascinated with their own goodness, his words and attitude were critical, and he offered censure rather than the much needed comfort.

Although he began his speech apologetically, expressing a desire that his words not be offensive, he also said that he was compelled to speak regardless of the consequences. He is typical of an older person who feels that he has all of the answers to the world situation because of his long living but has not yet learned the true nature of the love of God. He declared that Job had been lavish with his encouragement to others in trouble but now in his own hours of calamity is unable to take his own advice. He then proposed the popular view of the day that all suffering is punishment for sin. One hearing his words might assume that God is a cruel God who delights in destroying those who oppose his will.

Eliphaz was correct in his statement that

those who plow iniquity and sow trouble and mischief reap the same, but he failed to see that the reverse is not always true. He was blind to the problem of suffering innocence, so felt that the only answer to his friend's problem was for him to confess his sin and repent. Job's greatest need at the moment was for understanding, but he did not get it from this old man who was more interested in getting his point across than in helping a younger man in trouble.

Bildad the Shuhite accused Job of being a windbag and urged him to pray with the admonition that if he were as pure and righteous as he claimed, God would surely hear him and make him prosperous. Bildad emphasized the justice of God. It was clear to him that Job's children had sinned and God had "delivered them into the power of their transgressions." Since Job had not died with them, he was not totally without hope. If he would repent, he could be forgiven and prosper.

Here is another faulty idea that suggests that one's evil or righteousness can be measured by one's position in life. Thus, Job's present suffering was undeniable proof of his present sin. Job asked that he might have an umpire to judge

his case, a prayer that ultimately was supplied in our Savior. In reply to Bildad's prediction of doom, Job confessed that his redeemer would vindicate his name upon earth after he was gone.

Zophar the Naamathite was a shallow minded, quick spoken, critical person who had little to offer but was apparently resentful of Job's being what he was not. He charged that Job was receiving even less than he deserved. Since God would not confront Job personally, he would do it in his stead. Our world has always had its share of mean-minded little people who revel in the troubles of others and love to kick a person when he is down. Zophar criticized Job for being worldly without realizing that he was as guilty or even more so.

Job responded that he was aware of all they had said but that he was as wise as they and in no way inferior. Rather than helping, they had lied concerning him and cast reflection upon his character. Consequently, with both fear and assurance, he declared his intention to lay his case in God's hands and be judged by him alone.

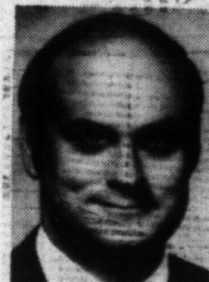
Shirley is pastor emeritus, Parkway, Tupelo.

Jesus' agony and arrest; the cost of discipleship

By Frank H. Thomas, Jr.

Matthew 16:31-56

Jesus warned and predicted that his disciples would forsake him very shortly. The flock being scattered was a reference to the disciples of Jesus after his death. The term "offended" is actually the term translated from the Greek word whose transliteration is "scandal." They would be scandalized or would stumble because of Jesus and because of what was about to happen to him.



Thomas

Peter tried to keep the faith as he pledged his loyal support to Jesus. Firmly Jesus answered him that this very night Peter would deny him three times. The time frame in which this would happen is indicated by the term "cock crow." This was a reference to the third watch of the night, according to the Roman system of designating time. This would be roughly between 12:00 midnight and 3:00 a.m. It would be during this time period that Peter would deny even knowing Jesus. Nevertheless, all of the disciples reassured the Master of their faith and determination to follow him.

The setting for verses 36-46 is the Garden of

BIBLE BOOK

Gethsemane. This was probably a private garden, and its precise location is not known. The name is probably Aramaic for "olive press." During this time in Gethsemane, the humanness of Jesus came through. The disciples were unable to be true companions and supporters for Jesus in his greatest hour of need. Their falling asleep was a symptom of their inability to follow Jesus through this time of trouble. Even one hour was too long for them. Such was the severity of what was about to take place that their courage failed them almost from the very beginning of the prayer time.

The temptation to which Jesus referred was a temptation of the flesh or of the lower nature. Jesus might have had reference to the betrayal or he might have had reference to a lapse into self-centeredness. When the pressure was on, rather than give to Jesus and give themselves to him, the disciples took care of themselves and showed themselves to be basically self-centered. Their spirit or their higher nature was willing to follow him, but their physical selves and their lower nature made this nearly impossible. The cup to which Jesus referred was the failure of his disciples, the new release

of selfishness, cowardice, and anger in the very people whom he had come to save. All of these things surrounded his death and probably have to do with "this cup." Jesus would have wanted this cup to pass from him, but he stressed his willingness to obey the will of the Father.

The three times that Jesus went back to pray could very well presage the three times that Peter denied his shortly after that. Jesus prayed as long as he could with his disciples asleep, until the time had come for the events of the evenings to take place.

Judas, a disciple, led the enemy to Jesus, pointing him out with a kiss which was supposed to be a greeting of affection and honor. When the soldiers seized Jesus, one of the disciples drew a sword and cut off the ear of the servant of the high priest. At once, Jesus ordered his disciple to put his sword back in its place, for all who live by the sword will die by the sword. He had come to give life and not take life. He also had come to be obedient to the Father, and this meant that he should give his life voluntarily at this time. This action of Jesus took place as a fulfillment of that which was found in the prophets such as Isaiah 53:7 and Daniel 9:26.

So it was the steadfast commitment of Jesus to the will of his heavenly Father which challenged his disciples then and challenges us

today to be faithful to him in bad times and in good times. What is the cost of the discipleship which you and I practice?

Thomas is pastor, Alta Woods, Jackson.

Temptation of Christ

(Continued from page 2)

or cry this out, or laugh this out together."

There is a song that best expresses what I have tried to write. One phrase goes like this, "My soul demands reality."

Many years ago I prayed, "Be real to me or leave me alone. I know how to play this game. I know how to walk the walk and talk the talk. Please be real to me so that my life won't be one big game."

He answered that prayer; and from that day on, the temptations of my life have been overpowered by the reality of Jesus Christ in my life.

Billie (Mrs. Gerald) Buckley lives in Petal and is a member of Petal Harvey Church.

SCRAPBOOK

I am the face of the Lord

When Jesus walked from place to place
In a body as we possess,
Those then alive could view his face
And the convictions he would express.

Whether fear or anger, grief or love
Or peace came from his look,
His face reflected the Father above.
His face was an open book.

But now Jesus is seated
In heaven with the Father of Light.
His work on earth is all completed.
Now we continue his fight.

His face we no longer see;
To heaven he has soared.

Instead, when folk look at me,
They see the face of the Lord.

When Jesus left he made a vow
That alone I would not tread,
If to his Lordship I would bow
I'd possess the Spirit of God.

Now when others look at me
The Lord they still can view.
He still lives for all to see.
Tell me — does he live in you?

When people see you day by day
How do you reflect the Lord?
Do people see him as happy and gay,
Or cranky — or maybe bored?

Does your face show a God of love
Or one who doesn't care?
Do you represent our God above
Or only worldly fare?

People are watching even now
Who know you profess "this way"*
To see your face and find out how
Jesus will be seen today.

Think about it — answer me true.
What will people say?
When people stop and look at you,
How will they see Jesus today?

*Acts 9:2

—Bob England

Who am I?

Not many people pay a lot of attention to me because there are so many others like me. We are all basically the same except I have two things that are different. The results of what I do can be seen around you all the time and I am only around in September. I help camps like Central Hills and Camp Garaywa. If something like a fire or hurricane hits somewhere, then I'm there to help. All kinds of new missions can be created through me, too.

I am a very interesting thing, but a lot of times I am neglected by churches. People like you need to be reminded of me, so I pay for the materials to be sent to you to remind you.

Do you know who I am?

Answer — The Margaret Lackey Offering.

—Hope Hurst, Acteen
First Church, Bruce



Clarke renovates greenhouse

Mrs. Earnestine Burns examines one of the new geraniums grown in A. L. McGaugh Greenhouse on the Clarke College campus. The greenhouse was built a number of years ago to be used as a teaching facility. It was named for Mrs. Burns' former husband, now deceased, who was chairman of the Department of Science at Clarke 1949-1970. Through efforts by Mrs. Sandy Read, wife of Clarke College dean, James Read, the greenhouse has recently been renovated and many new plants established for future use on campus grounds.

Baylor cancels Nelson concert

WACO, Texas (BP) — Baylor University has canceled a November concert at the university by country/western singer Willie Nelson.

Baylor officials would not elaborate on the reasons for canceling the concert, but the decision followed recent protests and picketing of Nelson events by police officers protesting a benefit concert staged by Nelson on behalf of a prison inmate involved in the death of two FBI officers. FBI Director William Sessions is a Baylor graduate.

The concert was to have benefited the depositors of the failed Leroy Bank, a private bank northeast of Waco. It has been rescheduled for Nov. 14 in Heart of Texas Coliseum in Waco.

Nelson, who grew up in nearby Abott, was a student at Baylor during the spring of 1954.

Europeans worry about seminary

RUSCHLIKON, Switzerland (BP) — Southern Baptists are not the only people concerned about the future of the struggling Baptist Theological Seminary here. A group of 50 European theologians meeting here passed a resolution that said "We strongly affirm the necessity of Ruschlikon's continued existence."

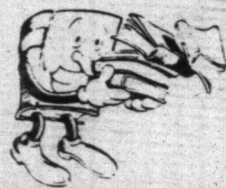
They said the seminary was "without doubt the contribution which has been most valued" among Southern Baptists' many initiatives in Europe. The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board started the seminary in 1949.

The seminary will run a budget deficit of about \$200,000 for 1988, needs about \$1 million in building repairs and is operating with a skeleton staff.

The drop in the U.S. dollar's value in Europe accounts for most of the institution's money problems. The Foreign Mission Board funds between 30 percent and 40 percent of the seminary budget.



First Church, Sardis (Panola) held Backyard Bible Clubs in two locations this summer. One was held in the Orr Subdivision at the home of Sarah Christ. The other club was held in Ramsey Trailer Park at the home of Mrs. Reggie Robertson. Workers pictured, left to right, are Mary Womack, Virginia McAdams, and Marie Massie. Workers not pictured are Mildred Baronowski, Dot Scruggs, Tag Keating, Lamerle Koonce, Helen Moore, and Sarah Woodard. Mary C. Carter was coordinator.



Book reviews

THE CONVENTION, A Parable; Will D. Campbell; Peachtree Publishers Ltd., 494 Armour Circle NE, Atlanta, GA. 30324; hardcover \$14.95; to be published in September.

Will Campbell is a native of Amite County, Mississippi, who now lives near Mt. Juliet, Tenn. He is the author of several books, and this one is a fictional narrative about Southern Baptists. He is, himself, a Southern Baptist.

This parable notes that the Southern Baptist Convention has changed its name to the Federal Baptist Church, and the narrative gives an account of political activities such as have become a part of the Southern Baptist scene.

The time frame for the book is 1994 and comes after fundamentalists have been in control of church machinery for 10 years.

It is a story of the election of the first woman as president of the convention, called the church in the book. The annual gathering, however, is referred to as a convention.

Messengers are called commissioners, and the meeting for this setting is held in Chicago. The two factions of the church are called fundamentalists and moderates, and then there is a loose coalition and not too large group of women who are determined to elect a woman to the presidency regardless of the fact that the fundamentalists have held the office for several years. Their candidate is Dorcas Rose McBride, as fundamental as anyone at the convention but completely unaligned. She is a commissioner from Scott's Grove Baptist Church near Claughton Station in Mississippi.

The trials and tribulations, the victories and defeats that the women suffer along the way make the book a gripping narrative, and sometimes it paints a picture uncomfortably like Southern Baptists as we are. Many Mississippians will be interested in seeing one of their kindred souls in Dorcas Rose McBride of the fictional

town of Claughton Station. She is almost too good to be true, but her goodness sways a convention ready for such a change. The surprise ending will not be revealed at this time.

The book is not available in Baptist Book Stores and must be purchased from the publisher. — DTM

Rogers, Adrian P. MASTERING YOUR EMOTIONS. Nashville: Broadman, 1988.

The author is well-known, no introduction is needed.

As with the author's previous books, this book is largely a book of sermons. The topics range from Insecurity ("All I Need — and More") to Inferiority ("God's Hall of Fame") to Bitterness ("Weeding the Garden").

Ministers & laity would find the book helpful. — Greg Potts

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